June 10, 2004

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTORS: **Scott W. McLellan**

APPLICATION NO. **09/516,820** Examiner: **D. Ha**

FILED: **March 1, 2000** Art Unit: **2634**

CASE: **McLellan 13**

TITLE: **TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE PROTECTION CIRCUIT**

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Attn.: Examiner Dac V. Ha

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH EXAMINER DAC V. HA

Scheduled Interview Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 2:00 PM

Summary of Rejections: Claims 8, 9, 11 and 19 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 based on U.S. Patent No. 5,640,127 to Metz and Metz combined with prior art admitted in the application. Claims 9 and 11 depend from claim 8 and, thus, allowance of claim 8 will also result in the allowance of claims 9 and 11.

Applicant would like to discuss with the Examiner the assertion that Metz teaches independently controllable diode strings to carry predetermined (claim 8) or substantially the same (claim 19) DC currents.

It is applicant's position that Metz does not have independent current flowing in the diodes. More specifically, with reference to Figure 8 of Metz, if the current flowing through diode string D1 and D1a is changed, the current flowing through diode D2a will also change. For example, if the value of resistor R4 is reduced to get more current flowing to diode string D1/D1a, then the voltage across resistor R5 will increase, which means that less current will flow through diode D2a. This relationship is not an independent relationship; rather, controlling the current through one of the diode strings will, by necessity, also control or change the current flowing through the other diode string.

By way of contrast, referring to Figures 2A and 2D of the present application, there is no common resistor or DC current path between the diode strings. For example, in Figure 2A, the DC current flows are completely independent of each other, that is, you can change the resistance value of resistor 126, which will change the current flow through diode string 106 and 108, but this changing of the R value of resistor 126 will not affect the current flow through diode string 102 and 104. Thus, as claimed in claims 8 and 13, the diode strings are completely independently controllable, whereas in Metz they are dependent upon each other.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: JUNE 10, 2004

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